

Thank you Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Schuring and Ranking Member Driehaus for allowing me to testify in front of the House Finance Committee today.

I am Lu Dale, Vice Mayor of Huber Heights City and Council member. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you regarding the planned closure of the Montgomery Developmental Center.

I don't believe individual housing in the community will/can meet the critical medical needs and care of the individuals living in the Montgomery Center. The Montgomery Center has staff and nurses on ground round the clock to support their medical needs without running to the emergency room for every illness. Emergency room runs will drive up cost.

Please do not destroy these individuals' home. Some have lived here over 30 years. They do not adapt to changes well. Many have complex behavior that the well-trained staff and a team of professionals is available on-site to address their behavior on the spot. Community homes without these services are not equipped to care for these individuals.

They have become a part of the community. They are already in the community. They are in residential setting and are welcome by neighbors.

ECONOMICS. The Montgomery Center's budget of \$17M, \$12M goes for salary. Many of these employees will lose their jobs. This will also affect the city tax base.

DECREASE IN ENROLLMENT. This is a great facility, most efficiently operated and one of the newest in developmental

centers. Yet admission to this facility stopped many years ago. The only way to get into the center is by court probate. Why just court ordered individuals are allowed? Enrollment cannot grow utilizing this method. It is unfair to use this as justification for closing the Montgomery Center.

I understand downsizing. I know we have to do this. But I ask you, must we continue to balance budgets on the back of the poor? Now the mentally disabled? Lets' look at other ways and means. I urge you -- Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Schuring and Ranking Member Driehaus -- please do not destroy these people's lives.

Huber Heights City Council supports maintaining the operation of the Montgomery Developmental Center and declared an emergency measure on March 9th, 2015, for the immediate preservation of public peace, health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the City. PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE THE MONTGOMERY CENTER IN HUBER HEIGHTS.

Lu Dale
Vice Mayor/Council Member
City of Huber Heights
6163 Taylorsville Road
Huber Heights, Ohio 45424
Tel: (937) 233-1423